



Meeting Minutes

Linn Grove PTO

Meeting Date & Time: Tuesday, November 1st, 2016

Meeting Place: Linn Grove Media Center

Mission Statement:

The PTO is a volunteer organization that works exclusively on behalf of our children through the cooperative efforts of our families and school staff.

The PTO shall do this by:

A. Fostering closer working relationships between school, parents, and teachers.

B. Providing a forum for discussion and communication between parents, administrators, teachers and the community.

C. Enhancing the educational facilities and opportunities for the students of Linn Grove Elementary.

Meeting Called to Order by Kara Larson

Attendance: 13

(Officers in attendance: Kara Larson, President; Kelly Ackley, Vice-President; Angela Lincoln, Recording Secretary; Angie Lawrence, Correspondence Secretary; Sheri McCormick and Kelly Anderson, Co-Treasurers)

Minutes: Minutes from October 2016 meeting were accepted

1. Building Update:

Chad Buchholz:

- Fall parties went ok and we're encouraging everyone to enter their volunteer hours.
- 1st trimester ends next Thursday. Report cards will be sent home the next Friday after.
- We have had 97% parent participation for conferences. The teachers really trying to get that time completed, some meeting just last week.
- This month will be instructional.
- Starting to see a little illness. Kids need to stay hydrated and get vitamin C.
- 4th graders swimming at the Linn Mar Aquatic Center currently. They get 40 minutes in the pool, gone from the school a total of 1 ½ hours. The LMAC has amazing instructions/program that tracks students so they can continue where they left off last year or during their swimming lessons over the summer. 3rd grade will go last week of school, 5th grader get ½ day, 2nd grade going this year for the first time in early March before spring break.

Tiffany K and Amanda Farber:

- Growth Mindset presentation which is based on Carol Diweck's work. Her first book was "Mindset", then "Mindsets in the Classroom" (staff is reading this now), then her book that just came out "The Growth Mindset Coach". Tiffany will continue to send Celia some Growth Mindset material each month that will get emailed to parents. Basic concept of this is when you're working the brain, the brain is growing. If you're just doing easy things, there is no growth. Tiffany and Amanda now have a bulletin board up at school containing famous people. This has famous people and shares some things they had to overcome to become successful. They talk about the power of "yet". There are things we cannot do "yet", and with practice you will get better. Some teachers are using this in the classroom. For example, instead of saying "I can't do it" say "I can't do it yet". Mrs. Farber reports now there is not as much frustration in the classroom. ClassDojo has videos about mindsets. You can also search ClassDojo mindsets on YouTube and find several videos. With the Fast tests, kids can see they are getting better by looking at their graphs. Other materials about this are the book "What Gritty Kids Do" and "The Fantastic Elastic Brain" kids' book.



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2. Teacher's Requests:

There are no requests this month.

3. Officers Report:

Presented by Sheri McCormick.

4. Current Business:

Merchant Card Fundraiser: Cards should have gone home to all, one envelope per student (families will receive one per child). \$200 deposit received Thursday and was put in safe. We are receiving requests for more cards and some have returned all their cards back to the school. Out of state family/friends can use Caseys and Papa Johns, location not limited. No one has checked out the mobile discount offers yet but there are over 180,000 offers.

Bylaws: Handout was distributed listing each proposed change. All changes were reviewed. Per bylaws, changes must be proposed at one meeting and voted on at another meeting so we will have a vote at the December meeting.

Recap of October School Board Meetings & Meeting w/PTO: Meetings were all about the district restructuring, which was voted in. They are not taking steps like talking to other schools and getting prices for the new building, looking at land and talking to existing schools that will need updates like Excelsior. All that info is needed before proposing the bond, which could take a year.

NFL60: Beautiful night and good turnout. We had lots of help from fathers!

Trunk or Treat: Between 4:10pm-5:15pm, there were 310-320 kids! We had a great turnout and lots of fun. People saying they will have a trunk next year. Some trunks did run out of candy/items and others shared, which was nice to see! There was a good balance of candy vs non-candy items given. We'll be discussing Trunk or Treating at the District PTO meeting this month to see what works. Chad suggested reaching out to high school groups to get them involved. Kara suggested we could ask for candy donations, and it was suggested that friends pair up to make a trunk together and cut expenses.

Kids Holiday Bazaar: Update from Carmen. There are about 10 vendors signed up so far. Contracts were sent out to last year's participants. Keep reaching out to get more vendors. Kara will get flyers sent out.

Box Tops: There were two contests in October and we received a little over 2000 box tops. Pumpkin patch picnics this week. Teachers who won will be getting Dunkin Donuts delivery. November contest is the grade that brings the most in will get a popcorn day. Today was a submit day so in December we should receive a check for about \$2600. Download the new Box Tops Bonus App and earn bonus box tops for our school on box top items you're purchasing.

Hy-Vee Receipts: As of today there is \$88,111.48, which is still lower than last year at this time. Kara will get some more info out there and was thinking we could promote it with our Play Station night or spring movie night.

5. New Business

Matt Wilhelm: This is a 45-minute anti-bullying show for the whole school scheduled 4/13/17 in the afternoon. Cost is \$825 for two age-appropriate shows, due the day of the show. PBIS will give us \$200-\$250 and will tie the April reward into that, and then we can also use leftover money from field trips and vouchers funds.



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Plan is to budget Matt's show for every three years moving forward. This was approved, \$825.

Skating Unit: – This is a two-week program for grades 3-5, 45 minutes during specials, provided by a company in Minnesota. We are looking to schedule at the end of February/beginning of March because another school cancelled theirs at that time. Some others school do it but our school has not ever done it. Cost is \$1800, which is \$7 per student for full gear (helmets and pads) or \$6 w/o helmets. There were concerns voiced about the helmets being sanitary. Chad will look into pairing this with another event that would give every kid in the school a helmet, which would save \$250. Plan is to budget skating unit for every two years moving forward. This money would come from what's already in the PTO bank account. We will likely need some volunteers to help during this unit. This was approved, \$1800.

6. Open Discussion

Kara shared a copy of the School Board's *unofficial* 10-year Strategic Plan.

7. Meeting Adjourned At: 7:30 PM

Upcoming Events

Movie Night: 11/4, 6:00 – 7:30pm

Maid Rite Night – 11/15, 4:00 – 8:00pm

The Play Station Night – 12/4, 3:00 – 6:00pm

Kids Holiday Bazaar – 12/10, 9:00am – 12:00pm

Don't forget to turn in Box Tops & Hy-Vee receipts!

Next PTO meeting is December 6th!

Record volunteer hours at <http://volunteers.linnmar.k12.ia.us/login.asp>